

Conservation Restriction to Protect Eagles Nest Views 4*

By SUSANNA SHEEHAN

Selectmen endorsed a conservation restriction on 19 acres of private land on Standish Shore that once belonged to the Pilgrims.

The Kelso family of Elder Brewster Rd. agreed to a conservation restriction with the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts in an effort to preserve its land from devel-

opment. The land will remain privately owned, but the restriction is legally binding and in perpetuity. The Wildlands Trust will monitor the land each year to be sure it is being properly protected. The restriction will protect many species of wildlife and vegetation as well as the public's view of the salt marsh from the right side of the Eagles Nest Creek bridge.

Patricia Loring of the Wildlands Trust and the Duxbury Open Space Committee worked with the Kelso family and the Duxbury Conservation Commission to reach agreement on the restriction. She explained the proposal to selectmen at their meeting last week.

"This property is spectacular," said Loring. "It has fabulous scenic, historic and conservation values. It was part of the original farm of Elder Brewster. There are two springs that the Pilgrims used and Native American artifacts have been found. There is a real sense that Native American families summered on this property."

Also found on this land are uplands, freshwater wetlands and a vernal pool. Loring said owls, hawks and a family of deer all make their homes on this land.

"The town of Duxbury and the Wildlands Trust are indebted to the Kelso family for protecting this special place," Loring said.

Tony Kelso said his parents, Jim and Ducky Kelso, have always been conservation-minded. His father was a selectman and a member of the conservation commission. Kelso said this property was "land my parents assembled over many years". The Kelsos chose a conservation restriction as the best way to permanently preserve their land while keeping it in their family.

"We wanted to save this chunk of land," said Kelso. "You can see the development pressure and the significant inroads that subdivisions have made over the years."

Selectmen said they were grateful for the conservation restriction because it helps the

town preserve the open space without buying it.

"It's one of the most significant pieces of land (with a conservation restriction) we've seen," said Selectman Margaret Kearney.

Selectmen signed off on the conservation restriction as required by the state. The signature of the state Secretary of Environmental Affairs is needed next.

Loring has brokered other conservation restrictions in the past few years including one on the new town green on Washington St., one on a private open field on Surplus St., and another on a private property on Marshall St. Loring has said that conservation restrictions not only protect open space, but they also help retain the character of the town and limit growth.